Rev.2:25 Nevertheless, hold fast to what you have till I come.

Daniel A. Poling's experience in the Northwest.
In the Cascades, near the headwaters of the Hood R.
On a picture-hunting and fishing trip.
The descent to the river
Poling's short-cut and fall.
The mountain pine that held.
Poling's message- The Grip That Holds.

The grip of Tradition holds.
Tradition shapes and directs our habits
Is master of our trades, industries, systems of business.
Largely controls govenrment and organizations
Enslaves mankind to fashion and style.

Tradition, in its influence is consequently both good and bad. It holds us fast to that which has been tried out. But it also blinds us to that which may be better tthan what we ha have.

Tradition declared that the world was Flat. Called the Wright Bros. fools. Persecuted discoverers of new truth, inventors and pioneer thinkers, statesmen and prophets. Tradition crucified Christ.

But there are worthy traditions, holy and good. Landmarks of faith and practice; of truth and hope; treasured memories and habits of prayer and ministry that are a great blessing and help to us. Thank God for the traditional standard of rugged honesty and integrity, for the old-fashioned prayer and faith and reverence.

Another grip that holds is knowledge.
The world surrenders to the man that knows.
Lack of knowledge and experience causes most failures in life, and business.
The man who knows alwyas gets a hearing.

A few generations ago the Northwest was an unknows and unappreciated country.
The Pres. of the U.S. declared it was'nt worth a struggle with England
Daniel Webster said it was worthless because the day would never come when a railroad would run across the Rockies.

But Marcus Whitman who had gone to the Columbis R. region from New England had become familiar with the Oregon country until he knew its fertile valleys, sts vast mountain forests and is streams for fishing and navigation. And when the plot of the Hudson Bay traders came to his ears, Marcus Whitman rode across a frozen continent to Washington, the mightiest ride of all history in order to save the Oregon country to the U.S. And when Whitman told his story at Washington, all listened intently because a man who knew was telling them. The Pres. changed his mind, as did Daniel Webster and others.

Then followed Whitman s return to the Oregon country, leading a band of settlers. And today the stars and stripes floats over Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana because Marcus Whitman knew!

Faith also is a grip that holds.

Tradition is broken and set aside, knowledge "passeth away", todays knowledge becoming tomorrow's tradition, but faith holds fast thruout eternity.

We boast of our modern knowledge, but, afterall, how little we actually know and how much we are compelled to take on faith.

The 5-day conference of electrical industries. What a great blessing electricity is to mankind, and yet not even an Edison can tell us what electricity is. We just have to take it on faith and trust it to serve us.

Likewise with the most precious things of life- mother-love, a loving father, friendship, children, faith God. Who knows what they are? But by faith we can posses them!

Faith laid the first Atlantic cable. Faith tunneled the Hudson and dug the Panama Canal. Faith enabled Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Without Faith there would be no open Bible, no Magna Chartas, no Declarations of Indepence, no liberty. Faith directed George Washington and created Abraham Lincoln. Joaquin Miller's famous Columbus, which every school child today must learn, might as well have been named "Faith".

"Sail on, sail on, sail on".

I take my text from Rev.2:25 **Nevertheless, hold fast to what you have till I come.**

From the message to the Church at Thyatira.

Many in the church taken up with heathen practices and beliefs. Their Xty adulterated

But there were a few faithful ones in the church, the advice to hold fast given to them.

On my rounds this week among the people , much said about the churches.

The churches are too traditional& too far behind the times, too slow, too dead, not peppy enough, not inviting and attractive, too cold, the ministers too old-foggish, not up to snuff, too far separated from the people, outworn, a thing of the past, etc.

It sent me to reading again the Bible's message to the churches.

The advice given to the faithful ones at Thyatira appealed to me-Hold fast to what you have
And what have these faithful ones on our churches?
A life of faith and pracitce in Christ
Their faithful work and service in the church.
They do not criticise, they are too busy for that.
"A mule cannot kick whaile he is pulling and cannot pull whaile he is kicking"
Their gift to their children, reverence for God and respect for the holy things of life.

Let us hold fast to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.